

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00594 010926Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /082 W

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P R 010830Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1232

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0594

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SU, ET

SUBJECT: GOS CONDEMNS ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE "AGRESSION"

1. SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED LENGTHY STATEMENT
AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 29 CONDEMNING WHAT IT CHARACTERIZED AS
"ACTS OF AGRESSION BY ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE AGAINST SUDANESE
INTERNAL POSITION". STATMENT ACCUSES ETHIOPIANS OF
"REPEATED VIOLATIONS" OF SUDANESE AIR SPACE "DURING
RECENT MONTHS" IN AREAS BORDERING ETHIOPIA, WHOSE AIR
FORCES ACCUSED OF "AIR RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHY OVER
MANY (SUDANESE) SENSITIVE DEFENSE POSITIONS". STATEMENT
CLAIMS VIOLATIONS OF SUDANESE AIR SPACE HAVE RECURRED
REGULARLY SINCE MARCH 1975, DESPITE PROTESTS TO EPMG
AND LATTER'S RESULTANT "APOLOGIES". ON JAN 16, 1976,
ETHIOPIAN FIGHTER PLANE ATTACHED SUDANESE TRUCK IN
BROAD DAYLIGHT, SERIOUSLY DAMAGING VEHICLE AND INJURING
DRIVER AND HIS ASSISTANT. GOS REPORTED INCIDENT TO EPMG,
REQUESTING THEY TAKE "NECESSARY MEASURES TO PUT AN END TO SUCH
ATTACKS" BUT SO FAR NO REPEAT NO REPLY RECEIVED. TO THE
CONTRARY, STATEMENT CONTINUES THAT THREE ADDITIONAL ATTACKS
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00594 010926Z

WERE CARRIED OUT BY ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE ON FEB 26 WHICH

ARE CHARACTERIZED AS "VIOLENT, PERFIDIOUS AND BLOODY AGRESSION" AGAINST "UNMISTAKABLY UNARMED CIVILIAN TARGETS". ATTACKS LISTED AS FOLLOWS: (1) ATTACK BY TWO JETS AGAINST SUDANESE TRUCK, 55 KM FROM TOKAR INSIDE SUDAN (ON READ SEA COAST) IN WHICH THE FIVE SUDANESE INJURED AND VEHICLE COMPLETELY DESTROYED (2) ATTACK AGAINST TRACTOR BELONGING TO SUDANESE ROADS DEPARTMENT BEING USED ON REPAIR WORK 15 KM FROM TOKAR INSIDE SUDAN, HITTING TRACTOR AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDING DRIVER; AND (3) ATTACK AGAINST GOVERNMENT TRACTOR AND THREE "COMMER" TRUCKS, DESTROYING THEM AND WOUNDING ONE SUDANESE NEARBY. STATEMENT CONCLUDES THAT "WISDOM AND SELF-RESTRAINT WHICH WE HAVE SHOWN SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN WEAKNESS OR NEGLIGENCE" AND THAT SUDAN "WILL NOT NEGLECT ITS BASIC AND SACRED DUTY OF PROTECTING ITS TERRITORY, ITS AIRSPACE AND ITS NATIONALS AND WILL, FROM NOW ON, TAKE ALL MEASURES REQUIRED BY THAT SACRED DUTY".

2. STATEMENT WAS REPEATEDLY BROADCAST AND LOCAL RADIO BEGINNING AT 1500 HOURS FEB 29. PRESS MARCH 1 CARRIES REPORT THAT SSU LAWYERS' COMMITTEE HAS "CONDEMNED THIS AGRESSION". FONMIN MAKKAWI IS EXPECTED TO MAKE FULL STATEMENT ON MATTER TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY LATER IN DAY.

3. COMMENT. EMBASSY HAS HEARD SCATTERED REPORTS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS SUDANESE AIR SPACE BY EPMG AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING REPORTED SHOOTING WHICH EVIDENTLY OCCURRED JAN 16. FACT THAT GOS HAS SO FAR RECEIVED NO REPLY TO ITS DEMARCHE ON THAT INCIDENT, AND THAT THREE MORE HAVE APPARENTLY JUST RECENTLY OCCURRED, HAS SNAPPED SUDANESE PATIENCE. MAJOR PUBLICITY NOW BEING GIVEN INCIDENTS HERE BY SSU AND GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA WOULD SEEM MAKE IT FAR MORE DIFFICULT FOR GOS NOT TO REACT TO ANY SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN FUTURE. PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WITH GOS OFFICIALS SUGGEST THAT THEY REGARD STATEMENT AS MINIMUM REQUIRED BY SITUATION AND THAT HOTHEADS HAD WANTED TO DO MORE. BREWER

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